

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY
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-----260157Z 117704 /73

O 260124Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMCONSUL UDORN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 067312

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, OVIP, SHUM, PINS, LA, US

SUBJECT:PROPOSED VISIT OF DR. BOURNE TO VIENTIANE

REF: VIENTIANE 620 (NOTAL)

1. WE APPRECIATE THOUGHTFUL MESSAGE SETTING OUT POSSIBLE PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT TO VIENTIANE BY DR. PETER BOURNE. DEPARTMENT AND DR. BOURNE HAVE CONSIDERED THE DIFFICULTIES YOU OUTLINED. VISIT TO VIENTIANE FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES IS IMPORTANT TO DR. BOURNE FOR HIS NEW TASK, HOWEVER, AND WE BELIEVE THAT ONE-DAY VISIT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES, PARTICULARLY IF VISIT IS

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EXPLAINED IN ADVANCE TO LPDR AUTHORITIES.

2. IN VIEW OF PROBLEM YOU NOTE IN OBTAINING APPOINTMENTS WITH LAO OFFICIALS, YOU SHOULD APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTRY RIGHT AWAY TO INFORM THEM OF PROPOSED VISIT AND TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT FOR DR. BOURNE WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH SOUK VONGSAK OR, IF THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE, WITH HIS DEPUTY IN

PUBLIC HEALTH FIELD. IN ORDER TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING, YOU MAY WISH TO EXPLAIN TO LAO OFFICIALS IN REQUESTING APPOINTMENT THAT DR. BOURNE, AS THE NEW SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH ISSUES, WILL BE TRAVELING IN

ASIA IN APRIL TO INFORM HIMSELF MORE THOROUGHLY ON PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES. HE WILL BE ATTENDING REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE AND VISITING THAILAND AND BURMA AS WELL AS LAOS. IF YOU BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE, YOU MAY MAKE IT PLAIN THAT DR. BOURNE'S VISIT HAS ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION WITH RECENT WOODCOCK MISSION OR OTHER THAN HEALTH-RELATED ASPECTS OF US-LPDR RELATIONS.

3. DR. BOURNE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MEET WITH UNFDAC DIRECTOR ARNAUD AND WITH WHO REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE AND UNDP RESREP. HE IS ALSO INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH MR. HIEBERT, WHO REPRESENTS CHURCH WORLD SERVICE IN VIENTIANE, IF TIME PERMITS.

4. RE SCHEDULE, DR. BOURNE NOW PLANS TO ARRIVE AT NONGKHAI BETWEEN 8:30 AND 9 AM ON MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 18. EMBOFF SHOULD MEET AND ASSIST DR. BOURNE AT NONGKHAI. APPOINTMENTS WITH LAO MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH OR OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS COULD BE SCHEDULED FROM APPROXIMATELY 10:30 AM THROUGH 3:00 PM AS CONVENIENT. DR. BOURNE WOULD PLAN TO LEAVE VIENTIANE VIA THA DEUA AFTERNOON APRIL 18 AROUND 4:00 PM AND RETURN AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE TO BANGKOK.

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5. FOR UDORN: WOULD APPRECIATE CONSULATE UDORN MEETING AND ASSISTING DR. BOURNE FOR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE, NONGKHAI PORTION OF TRIP. ALSO, PLEASE MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR UDORN OVERNIGHT APRIL 17.

6. FOR BANGKOK: WE NOTE EMBASSY'S THOUGHTFUL OFFER OF DAO PLANE FOR FLIGHT TO CHIANG MAI (BANGKOK 6409). SEPTEL WILL INFORM EMBASSY THAT DR. BOURNE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THAT OFFER. IF POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, HE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR USE OF DAO AIRCRAFT TO AND FROM UDORN APRIL 17-18. PLEASE ADVISE.

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